

NEWS LETTER

MEHER
GARDEN HARVEST



Remember to
Follow us on *Instagram*
meher_montessori_schools

**Please Wash Your Hands
and
Be Safe!**

WHALE WATCHING
NEWPORT BEACH



www.mehermontessori.org





Hello dear parents. As the school year comes towards the end, the children are maturing, hungry for knowledge, and most of all have developed tons of virtues including independence, industriousness, and patience.

We had an early celebration of our Valentine's Snack Party because the Primary Teachers left for Seattle to attend the four days AMI Refresher Course/Conference. Indeed it was inspiring, enriching, educational and fun. I would like to specially thank my mentor and owner of our school, Mr. John Page and our director, Mrs. Adela Munoz for giving us the opportunity to grow in our profession.

Our Parent Night went well and I'd like to thank the parents who were present during the assembly. Your presence showed your support and care for your children and their education. It was an hour of educative discussions of Montessori learning and applications of it at home and in the family as a whole.

We have one child who is a March birthday celebrant; she is Brooklyn Wong and will turn 5 years old this March 15. Happy Birthday Brooklyn and may you enjoy the ones to come!

We have seven graduating children

namely: Brian Cheung, Jonah Choy, Jayden Fu, Nicholas Hessing, Rowan Huerta, Henry Lahoda and Julian Mota. The older children are busy with their sentence pattern analysis. Every day they have at least two sentences to work on and review in the afternoon. Not only do they learn to analyze sentences but they improved their cursive writing (most especially the spacing and writing the words on the line). Their math problems are coming along too and their reading skills are polished in the afternoon. Younger children are catching up with their phonetic sounds, writing their cursive letters and higher numbers, and tons of rug work.

I'd like to thank our children who continue to bring interesting "Show and Tell" subjects to our class! The children benefit so much and have fun learning from their classmates. This month they shared great tools like the "Bug and Insect Snapper," and interesting books entitled: "That's Why We Don't Eat Animals," "V is for Vegan (The ABCs of Being Kind)", "What is Love", "Hamsters" and "Vinigaroon", to mention a few.

With all our love and gratitude, Mrs. Rivera and Ms. Bayon



Happy March everyone!

Thank you to everyone who attended Parent Night. We had a great discussion about the Montessori method at home and parents shared insights about how they handled certain situations when those arise. I passed out an article as well, which copies now in Room 6 where the sign in/out book is located, for any parent that would like to take one.

This month we celebrate the birthday of Maxwell Lahoda on the 16th and Nina Ortega on the 23rd. They both turn 3. Happy Birthday to them!

Our Open Public House was March 7th. The school was open to the public to come get a closer look at the classrooms and ask questions.

Recently, the classroom's interest is geography. Children will ask where certain animals come from and where certain buildings/statues stand. It's great hearing the children say "The Statue of Liberty is in New York" or "Macchu Picchu is in South America/ Peru". The younger children have taken an interest in our big Atlas book.



They take turns looking at the pictures in the book and asking questions about them as well.

Thank you.

Ms. Lopez and Mrs. Suh



Class News

On Thursday, March 5, our class visited the California Science Center to see Turtle Odyssey 3D on the IMAX screen. We got to see the Space Shuttle Endeavor and spend some time in the Science Center as well. We had 11 parents join us on this trip; thank you for all your continued support.

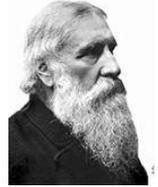
We started Partnership Projects which are a collaborative effort between students from different classrooms. Our class works with the oldest members of Ms. Lopez' and Mrs. Rivera's classes to show them around our room and give them an idea of what we do during the day. Similarly, Mr. Mindes' class works with the oldest members of our class to do research reports together. Parents will come for a big breakfast party and we showcase the projects and celebrate all the work put in together in the near future.

Curriculum News

In the Garden we explored the job of the root and observed roots by looking closely and getting our hands dirty. Most students are pretty familiar that roots suck up water, but maybe haven't thought about some other benefits of roots like they hold onto the soil and prevent erosion so that was brought to their attention by showing them a soil-covered root and shaking it a little. Not much soil falls off because part of the root's job is to hold tightly onto the soil. We spend one morning all together in the garden studying this topic at our Garden Harvest, taking notes,

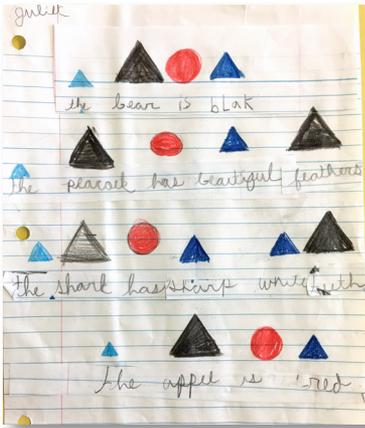
observing, and drawing what we see, and then students continue to study throughout the rest of the month and year.

Our monthly poem is called **Little White Lily** by George MacDonald. Children memorize what they can during the month, working a little each day, and recite it to the class at the end of the month. A copy is also sent home and they are welcome to practice there. Here is an excerpt:

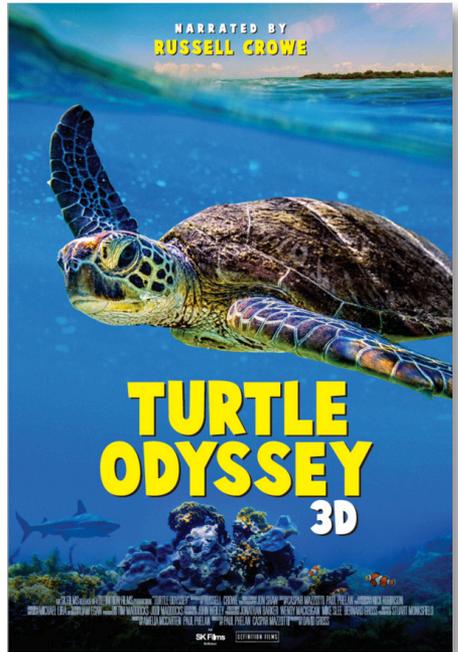


*Little White Lily
Sat by a stone,
Drooping and waiting
Till the sun shone.
Little White Lily
Sunshine has fed;
Little White Lily
Is lifting her head.*

One work that has been popular is grammar. Students are encouraged to look for patterns with the grammar symbols so they can help themselves figure out what a word might be. For example, a couple of girls have been writing out sentences like "The snake is big" "A bear is black" "Cheetahs are fast" and they know "is" is a verb, but they don't know "are" so they look at the sentence structure from the previous sentences and see that "are" is probably a verb.



Maps also seems to be a popular topic right now. Children have been coming up with their own creative ways of learning, with some tracing the map of the world and labeling the oceans, others learning all the states by labeling a U.S. map and others making a book with information about all 50 states that they are reading about. And as shown in the picture, a student learned California geography and made a big poster about it.



Dive in and explore some of Earth's most ancient and majestic creatures in Turtle Odyssey 3D.

Narrated by Russell Crowe, this award-winning film follows an Australian green sea turtle named Bunji and her incredible journey across the open ocean. Witness this green sea turtle's unique lifecycle from a hatchling into adulthood as she swims thousands of miles, meets incredible creatures and has some really wild encounters. She eventually migrates, with mysterious precision, back to the very beach where she was born – to lay her own eggs that are the foundation of the next generation.

With the turtles as your guide, encounter many kinds of strange and compelling creatures from enormous breaching whales to the coral wonderland of the Great Barrier Reef. Turtle Odyssey 3D tells the heartwarming story of one tiny sea turtle's big adventure and reminds us just how interconnected we all are in this amazing world.

ENDEAVOUR



Hello Meher Families! March is the month when the sun, in its steady drift, crosses the equator heading north. It is also the start of the late innings to use a baseball analogy. The third year students, the graduates, are either sure of where they will attend school next year, or are getting close.

A Note On Back to School Night

For those of you unable to attend *Back to School Night*, I'll just give a quick summary of the evening. We began the night with a brief sketch of foundational Montessori theory followed by an eclectic discussion on education and ending with individual teacher-parent conferences.

I summarized Montessori theory as dividing human development into four planes, the first two of which align with Meher Montessori's ages for the Primary and Elementary classrooms. I added that the Montessori materials and classroom environments support the different characteristics of each plane, nurturing and activating common human tendencies (the need for order, orientation, exploration, etc.) found in all developmental categories.

History in Focus

Over the last few months, our group projects and discussions have focused on the history of the world and early plant and animal life. In the second plane, which is the elementary aged student, Maria

Montessori suggested a broad perspective on history that includes anthropology, geology, archeology, and economy. This month's group project is a study of a country, and civilization from the point of how the society developed or existed in relation to the needs of human beings. These could be material needs, such as food, shelter, clothing, and defense; or spiritual needs that deals with philosophical questions of life and death expressed in art, religion, etc.

Whale Watching Trip

This month the Upper Elementary class headed to Newport Beach for a cruise to watch Marine Mammals. We saw various breeds of whales and dolphins, while a naturalist informed and entertained us with explanations and facts about marine ecology and marine life. I've heard whale and dolphin sightings are plentiful on the southern California coast.









Last Month

I would like to thank the parents that were able to attend Parent Night last month. It was a small group, but hopefully it was informative for those who were able to make it. Piggybacking off of some of the topics covered at Parent Night, I would like to touch on two things. First, while we do provide disposable napkins and utensils for your children at lunchtime, please consider packing reusable utensils and napkins inside your child's lunch bag. Aside from this being a greener option for our planet, it also makes it easier for your child to set up efficiently at lunchtime. I have already seen an uptick in reusable napkins for the children whose parents did attend Parent Night, and I want to thank you for that.

Secondly, Practical Life is considered by most to be the heart of any Montessori classroom. While the spooning and pouring activities may not sound like much, they allow your child to develop in so many of the fundamental ways that are necessary for more advanced lessons in the other areas of a Montessori classroom. As the

bowls, trays, pitchers, etc, tend to be glass or porcelain, your child learns to refine his/her movements by handling the materials with care. This also helps your child develop control and coordination of the whole body as he/she has to carry the materials from a shelf to a work area. Mastering these key preliminary lessons is essential to your child successfully handling the heavier materials in the Sensorial area, having the control to carry the boxes filled with small materials for the Mathematics area, and the wrist strength necessary for pencil work in the Language area. Maria Montessori really did know what she was doing when she came up with Practical Life!

Valentine's Day was a big success this year. Many of the children brought Valentines to pass out to their classmates. The children all sat in a circle and took turns passing out what they brought, one at a time. While it was time-consuming, the children all enjoyed seeing what their friends brought for them. After all the Valentines were passed, the children each ate two freshly baked sugar cookies that they had

decorated themselves that morning. Each child thought their cookies tasted great.

February also brought many new materials into the classroom from the Amazon Wishlist. I would like to once again thank Nils, Destan, Eila, and Elliott, for adding so many wonderful items to both the classroom and daycare room. The children have been enjoying them immensely.

In The Classroom

For the third year in a row, we will be celebrating Women's Month in the classroom. I welcome ideas and suggestions in this area. For March we will also learn more about the Irish culture in honor of St Patrick's Day. My books on this are limited at this time. This is an area I hope to build on through books and music. And, finally, March 2nd was Dr. Seuss's birthday. We have an assortment of Dr. Seuss's books in the classroom this month to celebrate his contributions to children's reading. As always, your child is welcome to bring a book to school, any day of the week, for me to read to the class. It would be especially great if the books were related to any of the aforementioned March topics.

This month we are also patiently waiting for our butterflies to emerge from their chrysalises and the praying mantis pod to explode with hundreds of baby mantises.

For the third month in a row, we achieved 100% participation for

School Shirt Day. We will decide on an activity in the near future.

Until Next Time,
Mrs. Wildhaber,
Miss Tinajero
Miss McCray & Miss Sykes



AFTER SCHOOL ART PROGRAM



www.mehermontessori.org



Coronavirus family communications

Please support our efforts at caqualityearlylearning.org/join

You may be feeling worried about the spread of the coronavirus, COVID-19. Given the widespread media attention of this illness, that is understandable. Many of us and our loved ones have runny noses, coughs and sneezes these days. Almost everyone with these symptoms will ultimately have the flu, a cold, or even bad allergies. Below are some things you can do to minimize your exposure and prevent the spread of these illnesses, including COVID-19.

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water. This is one of the best ways your caregivers protect themselves from the spread of germs—**it will help protect you, too!** Remember to clean the ‘webs’ between fingers and thumbs.
- Don't have access to soap and water? Use hand sanitizers.
- Avoid touching your face, particularly your eyes or nose, with your hands.
- When you or your loved ones are sick—stay home from work and school to prevent infecting others.
- Sneezing into tissues or your elbow are great ways to minimize spread of germs. Always wash your hands with soap and water after you sneeze.
- Unless you are in the healthcare profession or caring for an ill family member or friend, always try to avoid others who are sick.

If you do feel ill, you can contact your physician to discuss the most appropriate treatment option.